

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of United States Patent Application No. 09/876,763, filed on Jun 7, 2001, entitled Thermal Interface Wafer. The present application seeks allowance of those claims drawn to thermal interfaces that stood finally rejected in the final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003 in the '763 application. According to such Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-11, 19 and 20 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Fujimori et al., and Deeney, or alternatively, the combined teachings of Bunyan et al., and Fujimori et al. Claims 13, 14, and 33-35 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujimori et al. in view of Olsen et al. Claim 7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Fujimori et al. and Deeney, or alternatively, the combined teachings of Bunyan et al., and Fujimori et al., and further in view of Olsen et al.

Claim 16, which depended from Claim 13, was merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Application has sought to place the claims of the present application in condition for allowance by amending independent Claims 1 and 19 to incorporate the limitations appearing in Claims 15-17, namely, that the thermal interfaces claimed thereby are formed from a cross-section having a shape that is selected from the group consisting of generally rectangular, generally circular, and generally square. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations appearing in Claims 15 and 17. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited documents of record teach or suggest any type of thermal interface, and much less a thermal interface wafer cut or otherwise formed from a

cross section having such particular types of shapes. For example, the thermal conductivity sheet of Fujimori et al, the primary reference relied upon, does not form such sheet as a cross-section at all, but rather from a plurality of erect elements that are coated with a heat transfer agent, such as paraffin. See, e.g., Column 12, line 30 to Column 13, line 15.

Such novel features are believed to place the claims of the present application to more clearly and distinctly claim that which Applicant regards as the invention.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended herein, are in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To the extent the Examiner has any questions, requires additional information, or has any suggestions to resolve any outstanding issues that may exist, he is invited to contact Applicant's counsel at the number listed below. If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/21/03

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